

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicants note that the Examiner does not appear to have considered the Preliminary Amendment that was filed concurrently with the present application, which canceled claims 1, 2, 4, and 11-14, added new claims 25-29, and presented formal drawings. Thus, claims 3, 5-10, and 15-29 are currently pending in the application, not claims 1-24 as asserted by the Examiner. Furthermore, it is apparent from the Examiner's statements that he considered the original claims, not the claims as amended in the Preliminary Amendment. Applicants thus respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the present Action, to review the claims as presented in the Preliminary Amendment of March 13, 2002, and to issue a new Action based upon his review of these claims.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 08-2025. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 08-2025.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

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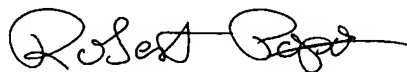
Alma Smalling

(Name of Person Transmitting)

(Signature)

(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



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